

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for allocating resources for creating a computing
2 environment, the method using a processor coupled to a display device and to a user input
3 device, the method comprising:
4 displaying a list of resources on the display device;
5 accepting signals from the user input device to indicate the configuration of at
6 least a portion of the resources; and
7 configuring the selected resources.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the resources include hardware
2 processors

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the processing resources include
2 software in particular operating systems and application software.

1 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising
2 accepting first signals from the user input device to indicate a configuration to
3 be used;
4 accepting second signals from the user input device to indicate one or more
5 software components to be installed; and
6 automatically installing the software components onto the processing
7 platform.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the software component is a server
2 component.

1 6. The method of claim 6, wherein the software component is a client
2 component.

1 7. A system for providing configurable resources to achieve a computing
2 environment, the system comprising
3 a configurable communication link;
4 a plurality of hardware devices coupled to the communication link; and

5 a plurality of software programs coupled to the hardware devices, the software
6 programs including operating systems, application software, and others of a similar nature.

1 8. The method of claim 7, further comprising
2 visual construction of the computing environment via a user interface, the user interface
3 coupled to a display screen and to an input device for generating signals in response to
4 interactions of a user, the method comprising:
5 accepting a first signal from the input device which enables the user to specify
6 a type of operating system for use in the computing environment;
7 accepting a second signal from the input device which enables the user to
8 specify a type of hardware for use within the computing environment;
9 accepting one or more further signals from the input device which enable the
10 user to specify one or more software to be used within the computing environment.
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1 9. The method of claim 8 further comprising
2 accepting a signal which allows the user to specify a new device to run in the
3 computing environment, activating the new device and displaying the computing
4 environment having the active device.

1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the displaying of a plurality of
2 configurations occurs prior to the step of accepting a first signal which enables the user to
3 specify or select a type of configuration.

4 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the devices displayed may be any
5 hardware device including hand-held devices, PDAs, cell phones, smart cards, Global
6 Positioning Systems, Point-of-Sale terminals, or any other form of hardware device which
7 involves computing in a generic form.
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9 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the visual configuration system further
10 comprising accepting a signal which allows the user to specify constraints on the
11 hardware such as the size of the hard disk, the bandwidth of the network, etc.

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14 13. The method of claim 12 wherein the method further comprising accepting a
15 signal which enables the user to specify a request for shared storage;
16 and allocating such storage to be accessible through any device in the
17 environment.

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19 14. The method of claim 13 wherein the method further comprising accepting a
20 signal which enables the user to specify a request for private storage;
21 and allocating such storage to be accessible through specific devices in the
22 environment for specific users in the account.

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24 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the method further comprising accepting a
25 signal which enables the user to request a copy a device configuration;
26 and making such a copy of the device configuration, saving it in storage;
27 and accepting a signal which enable the user to instantiate a device from a stored
28 configuration;
29 and instantiating such device from a stored configuration.